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## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

THE artist has translated the scene on the Galilean knoll into the quaint, unadorned art speech of the Rhine country, with its beautiful environment.

Christ is seated upon a moss-grown rock, and close behind him, partially hidden in a grove of trees, is a group of earnest, thoughtful disciples. In front of them, standing apart to the right, is an armored soldier and officer of mediæval days, the latter listening with a cynical, incredulous expression upon his face to what seems to him is such irrational teaching, so at variance with the old law of warfare, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

In the foreground some sheep feed contentedly, suggesting the richness of those "green pastures" satisfying the soul that liveth not by bread alone. Against a background of thick foliage the face of the Great Teacher stands out strong, helpful, persuasive, as with winning gesture he explains the precepts of the new kingdom and the character of its citizens to the mixed company semi-circled about him. Old men and maidens, young men and matrons, boys and girls (who in the beautiful thought of the artist have a large place in the kingdom), mothers with children in their arms, the village pastor, the scholar and professional man, peasants from the fields, the aged and infirm, a shepherd boy with his flock, and travelers diverted from their journey by the strange scene, listen with rapt attention to Him who "taught as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

The painter is the Düsseldorf artist Eduard von Gebhardt, and the original picture bears the date 1893. He belongs to the modern German realistic school. Two of his paintings, a noted "Last Supper" and an "Ascension," are in the National Gallery, Berlin. He is a modern Fra Angelico, who earnestly believes all he portrays and approaches his religious representations with reverent spirit and loftiest aim. His pictures are impressed with strong individuality, and, while one cannot always agree with him in his treatment of the theme, there is an earnestness and vigor about his work that attracts attention and makes it forceful and significant.

JOHN POWELL LENOX.



*See p. 126*

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

*Eduard von Gebhardt*